

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A device configured to perform breaking separation of at least one bearing cap from a corresponding thrust block in a bearing assembly of an engine case provided with bearing bores arranged in-line, comprising

an extension mandrel insertable into at least one of said bearing bores and said extension mandrel has two half-mandrels,

an expander for moving said half-mandrels apart, said expander taking effect between said half-mandrels,

at least two gripping means, each gripping means including one or more protruding engagement members, at least one of the one or more protruding engagement members being configured to grip at a recess of one half-mandrel corresponding to said at least one bearing cap from an upper side and an under side of the extension mandrel, while the other half-mandrel is movable with respect to the gripping means, the recess having horizontal surfaces on which the engagement members of the gripping means engage,

one or more detents extending parallel to and provided between a pair of the at least two gripping means, and

a fixing means connected to said at least two gripping means and the one or more detents, wherein the at least two gripping means and the one or more detents protrude from the fixing means,

wherein the one or more detents contact the at least one bearing cap in a protracted position such as to apply a force to the at least one bearing cap to clamp said at least one bearing cap ~~being~~ between said corresponding half-mandrel and said fixing means, such that a unit comprising said corresponding half-mandrel, said gripping means, said fixing means and said clamped bearing cap is supported in a freely movable manner to a limited degree, though secured against rotation, in the direction of breaking separation.

3. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said half-mandrel-corresponding to said bearing cap, comprises at least one recess or at least one projection engageable with said gripping means.

4. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 3, wherein said half-mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap comprises, at its periphery on mutually facing sides, tangentially extending insertion slots for said gripping means, said slots being in communication with said at least one recess.

5. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said at least one recess, when viewed in an axial direction of said extension mandrel, is positioned axially adjacent to said insertion slots in each case and merges into said slots.

6. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 3, wherein said gripping means are formed by a first and a second pincer, each of the first and the second pincers comprise fixed jaws, said jaws having, at their ends, engagement members facing towards one another.

7. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 6, wherein said engagement members engage with said at least one recess within said half-mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap or engage behind said at least one projection.

8. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the one or more detent is/are ~~said fixing means connected to said gripping means comprises at least one force-actuated detent.~~

9. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 8, wherein at least two detents are spaced apart from one another, said detents acting upon said bearing cap at that side which is opposite said corresponding half-mandrel.

10. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the device is configured to perform breaking separation in a bearing assembly of a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.

11. – 16. (Canceled)